

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant seeks to amend claims 1, 9, and 15. Unless otherwise indicated, the claim amendments are for purposes of clarity and not to overcome any rejection in the Office Action. These changes do not introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Claims 1-15 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 9, and 15 being the independent claims.

Based on the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sandstrom (U.S. 2004/0053143). Claims 1-15 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jain (U.S. Patent 6,312,134). Applicant traverses these rejections because the cited references fail to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention.

For example, none of the cited references discloses, teaches, or suggests a method or system for (i) determining attenuation of at least one of a predicted aerial image and a corresponding resist image and (ii) implementing the determined attenuation during exposing within an overlap zone, as recited in claims 1, 9, and 15. In fact, each of the cited references appear to be completely silent with regard to performing any type of an attenuation within an overlap exposure zone.

If a future Office Action rejects claims 1, 9, and 15, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Office Action specifically point out in the cited reference(s) a method and system configured for (i) determining attenuation of at least one of a predicted aerial image and a corresponding resist image and (ii) implementing the determined attenuation **during exposing within an overlap zone**, as recited in claims 1, 9, and 15.

It is respectfully pointed out that anticipation can only be established by a single prior art reference that discloses each and every element of the claimed invention. RCA Corp. v. Applied Digital Data Systems, Inc., 730 F.2d 1440 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Therefore, since the cited references fail to recite each and every element of Applicant's invention as recited in claims 1, 9, and 15, claims 1, 9, and 15 are not anticipated by the cited references and are therefore allowable.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and claims 10-14 depend from claim 9. Therefore, claims 2-8 and 10-14 are allowable at least for the reasons articulated above in connection with their respective independent claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-15 is requested.

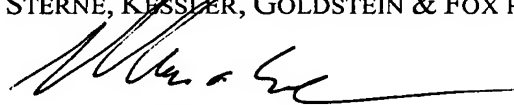
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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